

18 JULY 2001

OBITUARY – LATE GEORGE VALASIS

- George Valasis – a man at all times believing, led and guided by the word of God.

- GREEK

Βάδειν αὐτὸς στὸ δρόμο τοῦ Θεοῦ.

- A man blessed with a long healthy and fruitful life of 96 years.
- A man always giving of himself to his family and his fellowbeings.
- A man showing humility in all his human relationships.
- Born in Stingou, Tegea, Tripolis in 1905 – the eldest of 9 children. He left his beloved “XORIO” to come to South Africa in 1928 to join his brother, Pericles.
- Like all, to seek a better and more fruitful life.

- GREEK

(The poverty faced by all in the years 1920's by the Hellenes in Greece, particularly in his area, Arcadia, forced such a move.

He was not the only one).

Ὅτι γινώσκουμε τὴν πτώχεια καὶ ἡλιθιότητα
στὴν Ἑλλάδα – πρὸ αὐτοῦ στὴν ΑΡΚΑΔΙΑ
ἔμελλεν τὴν ἐξουχίαν. 2/...

- A man who never left his "XORIO" whilst in Greece. He lived with his Grandfather, whom he loved very much, and his mother before leaving for South Africa.
- He made quite certain before leaving that he provided what he could for his mother and smaller brothers and sisters and at the same time continued to provide for them when coming to South Africa. Many a time sacrificing any benefits to himself. The same principle applied to his late brother, Pericles.

- **GREEK** *(A man that, although he left Greece and lived in South Africa up to the time of his death for 73 years, never forgot his Hellenism and continued to remain a true Peloponnesian Hellene in all respects).*

ΤΑΥΤΑ ΩΣΤΕ ΕΠΕΙΝΕ - ΕΥΧΩΣ - ΜΟΡΑΙΤΙΣ
ΩΣ ΉΤΑΝ ΕΔΩ ΟΤΑΝ ΑΝΟΙΧΕ ΑΦΑΙΚΑ ΓΙΑ
73 ΕΤΗ.

- He never failed, as I mentioned, to always remember his "XORIO", but particularly he always related and told the stories of his life with his grandfather – something which was indeed very special to him and remained close to his heart.
HE LOVED HIS ΧΟΡΑΡΙΟ. When as a young man he failed
- Needless to say, throughout he retained his contact with his "XORIO" and visited this beloved environment. He always touched the room that he spent with his grandfather. A birthplace that was never forsaken.
- He continuously visited the Village throughout his life. At this old age he managed to visit his beloved "XORIO" on no less than 3 consecutive occasions up to last year and was planning to again visit this year.
- I have no doubt that he is permanently **with all** at his beloved "XORIO".

- The name Valasis in South Africa was synonymous with the Peloponnesian society. Both he and his brother Pericles carried this banner proudly. Pericles was considered the leader of the Peloponnesians for a very long period and he was strongly supported by his brother George.
- He made his landmark by dressing as a "TSOLIA" and exhibiting his favourite "TSAMIKO" dance, for which he was famous. He became the Maraitiko symbol when it came to the Peloponnesian affairs and family gatherings such as Christenings and Weddings and was always there to lead in the "TSAMIKO" dance.
- A very humble man. He was liked and respected by one and all who knew him.
- A MANS MAN, who in early days enjoyed hunting and was hard to beat in the kitchen, especially in cooking his favorite game dishes.
- There are even letters from Mrs Irene Smuts, thanking him after he had virtually invited himself to prepare a game dish for General Jan Smuts and Mrs Smuts. One can carry on with many such incidents and stories.
- I personally, was indeed privileged to have known the late Mr George Valasis. A very close friend of my late dad, who both came to South Africa within 1 year of each other. Their mutual respect and entrenched friendship for one another remained firmly entrenched. I felt this every time I spoke to him.
Both Brothers were very close to me.
- To have been such a happy man and to have lived such a long and healthy life, he was blessed with his wonderful lifelong partner and wife, Julia whom he married in 1940. They enjoyed 61 years of marriage.

- GREEK

(Like all the old Hellenic wisemen, always spoke of his wealth and riches which were in his 4 children, 10 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Indeed a very blessed man, both him and his good lady).

*Σὰν σοφὸς Ἑλλῆνας πάντα εἶπε ὅτι
ἡ περὶ τοῦ νόου τῆς ψυχῆς εὐτυχία
καὶ τῆς γυναικός.*

- To the family, all one can say is that you are left with the fondest and most wonderful memories. You are indeed blessed to have had this loving man as your husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Wonderful thoughts and memories will remain with you all your life. You too are indeed blessed and enriched by having had him as your pillar of strength.

- GREEK *(Barba, you will always be remembered and thank you for being such a wonderful friend. You will be missed, both here and in Greece by one and all).*

Θα σε θυμωομε πάντα - Edo nai ome
Ejada.

EONIA H MIMNI

Συμμετοχή Εδωορα.
Συμμετοχή - Hall.

From: Zachas <jzachas@iafrica.com>
To: statsco@hixnet.co.za <statsco@hixnet.co.za>
Date: Monday, July 16, 2001 3:19 AM
Subject: Letter for George Valasis

Mr. Stathoulis,

Here is the letter from mom for Pappou. You can open the attachment in Word and save it on your computer. You can then make any changes and print it out.

Thank you.

Ari Zachas

//10/01

1 George Valasis was born in Stingou, Tegea, Tripolis in 1905 – the eldest of 9 children. He left his beloved “XORIO” to come to South Africa in 1928 to join his brother, Pericles who had preceded him as one of the early pioneers in this country of Peloponnesian descent.

2 George had lived in his “XORIO” up until this point with his grandfather and his mother and when he left for South Africa made sure that he provided for his mother and remaining siblings by leaving his precious farmlands for their needs.

3 He was a plain and simple man with a big heart and worked hard all of his life. George was well liked by all that knew him. He was a MANS MAN, who in his early days enjoyed hunting as a hobby and was hard to beat in the kitchen, especially when he cooked his favorite game dishes. He was an ardent member of the Peloponnesian society and gave his full support to community life. George made his landmark as a “TSOLIA” when proudly exhibiting his favourite “TSAMIKO” dance. George married Julia Delagrammaticas in 1940 and was happy and content in his 61 years of marriage. He always proudly mentioned that all his wealth and riches were his 4 children, 10 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren whom he loved so very dearly and who loved him in return. As a husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, he was faultless.

4 His patience, unselfishness and generosity were his main attributes and his colourful character drew him to all who knew him.

5 In all the 73 years that he lived in South Africa he was fulfilled both with his life and his activities, yet closest and dearest to his heart – right up until his last moments, was his beloved birth place – his “XORIO”, Stingou, Tegea, Tripolis which he had visited 3 times in succession over the last few years – spending precious time in his village.

A stalwart Peloponnesian to the end.

May you rest in peace “BONOVOLIA”.

ΓΙΩΡΓΟΣ ΒΑΛΑΣΗΣ

Ένας άνθρωπος που πάντα πίστευε στο Θεό κι ακολουθούσε το Λόγο Του...

Ένας άνθρωπος ευλογημένος με μια νηή και καρποφόρα ζωή για 96 χρόνια...

Ένας άνθρωπος που συνεχώς προσέφερε τον εαυτό του για το καλό της οικογενείας του και των συνανθρώπων του...

Ένας άνθρωπος γεμάτος ταπεινοφροσύνη στις συναναστροφές με τους συνανθρώπους του...

Ο Γιώργος Βαλάσης γεννήθηκε στο χωριό Στύνγκου στην Τεγέα της Τριτολής το 1905, ο πρώτο-τοκος από 9 παιδιά. Ασχέσε το αγαπημένο του χωριό το 1928 και ήλθε στη Νότιο Αφρική να συναντήσει τον αδελφό του Περικλή και να βρει μια καλύτερη ζωή, όπως όλοι οι μετανάστες, στα φτωχικά εκείνα χρόνια του 1920 και 30 που περνούσε η Ελλάδα, και και συγκεκριμένα η Αρκαδία, και που ανάγκασε πολλούς να μεταναστεύσουν. Αυτός που ποτέ δεν απομακρύνθηκε από το χωριό του όταν ήταν στην Ελλάδα και ζούσε με τον παππού του, τον οποίο αγαπούσε πολύ, τη μητέρα του και τ' αδελφία του, αναγκάστηκε να ξενιτευτεί.

Πριν όμως φύγει προσέφερε, ό,τι μπορούσε στη μητέρα του και τα μικρότερα αδελφία του και δεν σταμάτησε να προσφέρει σ' ολόκληρη τη ζωή του, πολλές φορές θυσιάζοντας τη δική του καλοπέραση. Το ίδιο βέβαια έκανε και

μαζί με όλους τους γνωστούς και φίλους.

Το όνομα Βαλάσης στη Νότιο Αφρική ήταν συνώνυμο με το Σύλλογο Πελοποννησίων. Ο Γιώργος και ο αδελφός του Περικλής ήταν οι υπερήφανοι σηματοφόροι και στυλοβάτες του Συλλόγου. Ο Περικλής ήταν Πρόεδρος των Πελοποννησίων για πολλά χρόνια και ο Γιώργος ήταν ο πιο καλός υποστηρικτής του. Είχε αφήσει εποχή με τη στολή του 'Τσαλιά' που φορούσε και με το 'Τσάμικο' που χόρευε, στο οποίο ήταν ξακουστός. Ήταν το 'Μοράτικο Σύμβολο' σε κάθε Πελοποννησιακή εκδήλωση, σε χορούς, σε βαφτίσια σε γάμους, κι' ήταν πάντα πρώτος ν' ανοίξει το χορό με Τσάμικο!

Ένας απλός άνθρωπος που τον αγαπούσαν και τον σέβονταν όλοι όσοι τον ήξεραν. Ένας ολοκληρωμένος άνθρωπος που στα νιάτα του αγαπούσε το κυνήγι κι ήταν δύσκολο να τον ξεπεράσεις στο μαγεύεμα, ιδίως στα αγαπημένα του φαγητά με κυνήγι. Υπάρχει ένα ευχαριστήριο γράμμα από την γυναίκα του στρατηγού Γιάν Σματς, την κυρία Ειρήνη Σματς, για το φαγητό που από μόνος του προσέφερε και τους ετοίμασε. Και υπάρχουν πολλές τέτοιες ιστορίες που θα μπορούσε κανείς ν' απαριθμήσει.

Εγώ προσωπικά είχα την εξαιρετική τιμή να γνωρίσω τον μεταστάνα Γιώργο Βαλάση. Ήταν πολύ καλός φίλος του αιμνηστού πατέρα μου. Οι δυο τους ήρθαν στην Αφρική την ίδια εποχή, σε διάστημα ενός χρόνου, και εδραίωσαν έναν σεβασμό και μια σταθερή και μακροχρόνια φιλία ο ένας για τον άλλο, που την



Μπάρμπα, πάντα θα σε θυμάμαι με αγάπη και σε ευχαριστώ που ήσουνα για μένα ένας υπέροχος φίλος. Θα λείψεις σε όλους μας, κι εδώ και στην Πατρίδα.

ΑΙΩΝΙΑ Η ΜΝΗΜΗ ΣΟΥ!

Παναγιώτης Σταθούλης
18 Ιουλίου 2001

Ευχαριστήριον

Η Ιουλία Βαλάση και η οικογένειά της

επιθυμούν να ευχαριστήσουν θερμά τον κ. Π. Σταθούλη για τα καλά του λόγια κατά την κηδεία του αγαπημένου τους ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΥ ΒΑΛΑΣΗ

καθώς επίσης και όλους τους συγγενείς και φίλους για τη συμπαράστασή τους στο βαρύ πένθος τους.

Συλλυπητήριον

Ο Πρόεδρος και τα Μέλη του Α.Σ. του Συλλόγου Πελοποννησίων Ν.Α. εκφράζουν τα θερμά τους συλλυπητήρια προς την οικογένεια του εκλιπόντος ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΥ ΒΑΛΑΣΗ. Υπάρχει από τους πρωτοπόρους του Συλλόγου και μέγας ευεργέτης. Ας είναι ελαφρύ το χόρμα. Αιωνία του η Μνήμη.

Thank You

19-7-2001

Dear Mr. Peter,

No words can thank you enough
for all the kind things you said
about our Tēpo and for making
yesterday so special for us all.

Our Tēpo left in dignity - what he
deserved and on behalf of my
Mom and all our family, we
thank you most sincerely!

You were one of the few people who
understood him for what he was
and he too, felt a close bond to
you.

With sincerest thanks
and appreciation from us all,

Irene.